UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/587
17 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your kind attention, a letter from His Excellency Sayed Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, in response to the letter addressed to you on 11 Judy 1995 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the Egyptian military aggression against the Sudanese province of Halaib.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Mohamed OSMAN YASSIN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 17 July 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 July 1995 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt concerning Egypt's aggression against the Sudanese province of Halaib (S/1995/559, annex) and to the allegations, accusations and slander regarding so-called established facts and historical reality adduced in it. The letter contains many contradictions, lacks objectivity and avoids giving a direct reply to the two letters from Sudan to which it refers.

Likewise, it is clear that the author of the letter has a tendency to resort to provocative rhetoric and to repeat allegations that the Egyptian Government continues to make against the Sudan; these allegations have no factual basis and their only purpose is to rally neighbouring States in the region to the Egyptian cause. Although the international community is well aware that the violence that is rife in Egypt is linked to internal problems, Egypt is seeking to use this letter to divert international attention from this reality by unjustly accusing the Sudan of instigating such violence. The fact that the assassinations of the former President of Egypt and of the former chairman of the Egyptian Parliament have not yet been forgotten supports our contention that the recent history of Egypt is nothing more than a succession of internal violence.

I should like to inform the Security Council of the following facts:

1. The agreement concluded between the two parties in 1899 and amended in 1902 and 1907 provides that the Sudan has sovereignty over the territories and region of Halaib, which since then have remained fully under Sudanese sovereignty. The inhabitants of the region of Halaib participated, as Sudanese citizens, in the first elections to the Sudanese Parliament held in 1953 and in subsequent parliamentary elections; they have never taken part in any Egyptian election. There is a great deal of evidence and facts confirming the Sudan's sovereignty over the region of Halaib; we shall not adduce this information here. Egypt's attempts to alter the demographic structure of the region and expel its inhabitants by applying a policy of fait accompli will not give it legal or historical sovereignty over this Sudanese territory, especially after the decisive events that took place at the beginning of the conflict in the region.

2. Egypt's provocations and its concentration of troops in Sudanese territory in the region of Halaib became its characteristic way of dealing with the question as relations between the two countries worsened. Egypt had already resorted to such methods in 1958, which led the Sudan, in a note dated 20 February 1958, to bring the matter before the Security Council, which considered it at its 812th meeting on 21 February 1958 at exactly 3 p.m.

3. The Sudanese Government's persistence in turning to the Security Council stems from its wish to draw the Council's attention to the unjustified and irresponsible acts of aggression perpetrated by the Egyptian authorities, which are seeking to provoke the secession of a part of Sudanese territory in order to gain control of its resources and open up a new front in order to force the Sudan into a military confrontation that would threaten the stability, security and peace of the region.

4. The Sudanese Government has sought to examine and assess the exact incidents that confirm Egypt's continued aggression against Sudanese territory, while the Egyptian party has avoided addressing the root of the problem, namely, Egypt's repeated acts of aggression, preferring to resort to vituperations without any supporting evidence whatsoever. Moreover, the unjust accusation according to which the Sudan allegedly confiscated property of the Egyptian diplomatic mission was merely a pretext for preparing the cowardly attack on 16 July 1995 by the Egyptian services on four Sudanese diplomats from the embassy of the Sudan in Cairo, seriously wounding them and violating all international instruments, laws and practices currently in force, in particular the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961, as well as General Assembly resolutions 42/154 and 49/49.

Egypt's professed wish to begin bilateral negotiations is belied by the Egyptian Government's acts and attitude; it is contradiction with the Sudan's repeated appeal to the Egyptian party to allow the joint commission on the question of Halaib to resume its work, since the Egyptian party has continued to evade the question and procrastinate, while at the same time engaging in acts of aggression against the Sudanese province of Halaib.

While it is sufficient for the Sudanese Government that the Halaib triangle is Sudanese territory from both a legal and historical standpoint, it declares once again that it is ready and determined to accept the principle of a settlement or international arbitration or even a ruling by the International Court of Justice concerning the dispute over Halaib, and requests the Security Council to compel Egypt to accept the principle of international arbitration and also to force it to agree to the following measures:

(a) Cessation of military concentrations in Sudanese territory;

(b) Complete withdrawal from the Sudanese province of Halaib and payment of appropriate compensation to the families of victims of Egyptian aggression;

(c) Renunciation of the policy of fait accompli and of expulsion of the Sudanese population from the region;

(d) Lifting of the blockade on the inhabitants of the region and authorization of deliveries to them of water and food, Egypt assuming responsibility for what could happen to them if this is not done.

Believing in good-neighbourly relations, relying on well-founded principles and firmly committed to the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions, the Sudan reaffirms its steadfast desire for security, peace and stability in the whole region.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs